

# AMERICAN BROADBAND ACT



## BACKGROUND

The American Broadband Act will expand broadband access in rural America by targeting grants to unserved areas and removing costly regulatory barriers to broadband deployment. This legislation will help ensure broadband infrastructure reaches all Americans and is not used to fund duplicative and wasteful overbuilding.

## CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

- Establish a long-term funding program to help connect Americans who currently have no access to broadband.
- Authorize \$20 billion over five years to promote broadband infrastructure deployment by awarding grants at the State and local level, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).
- Authorize \$3 billion over five years to promote rural wireless infrastructure deployment by awarding grants at the State and local level, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).
- Require the use of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) completed broadband maps, as directed by the Broadband DATA Act, to truly close the digital divide.

## STREAMLINING THE PERMITTING PROCESS

- Incentivize state and local governments to cut their red tape by awarding these grants to public-private partnerships that have already streamlined their permitting processes.
- Place reasonable limits on state and local permitting, such as shot clocks and cost-based fees, to ensure providers receive an answer on their applications in a timely manner.
- Promote infrastructure deployment on federal lands and eliminate unnecessary or duplicative environmental and historic preservation barriers, such as for brownfields sites and floodplains.